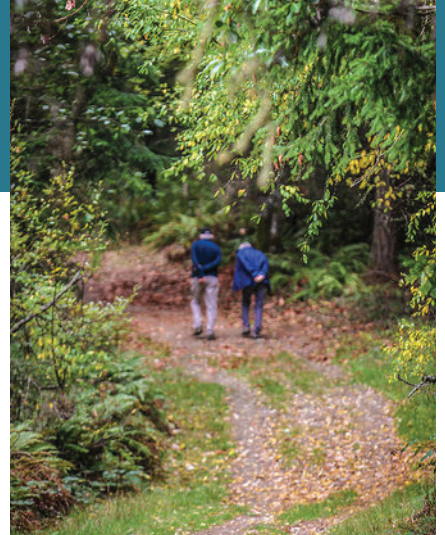


Frequently Asked Questions



The Bear Creek Watershed Management Study (Study) was a stormwater permit requirement of state and federal clean water laws. King County was the lead agency for conducting the Study, in partnership with Snohomish County, the City of Redmond, the City of Woodinville, and the Washington State Department of Transportation (the Partners).

The Bear Creek watershed covers about 26 square miles. The majority is within unincorporated King County, with smaller portions in the Partner jurisdictions. The study area does not include some portions of the watershed, including the Evans Creek basin and areas draining to Cottage Lake.

The Study includes the following:

- Current conditions assessment of the water quality and aquatic habitat;
- Projections of future conditions;
- Evaluation of actions necessary to meet state water quality standards over the long term;
- Identification of near-term strategies that could protect and restore health of the watershed, many of which are focused on five high-priority areas; and
- Estimated costs for these recommended strategies.

Beyond meeting regulatory requirements, the Study will help guide future actions to protect and restore water quality and habitat resources of the Bear Creek watershed.



Q: Why is the Study important to me?

The Bear Creek watershed supports more than 10,000 households and is home to several species of salmon and trout. The area was mostly built before modern stormwater control requirements, and while water quality is generally good, there are some concerns, such as high water temperatures and fecal coliform pollution. As the area develops, it is important to understand what actions to protect and restore water quality and habitat might be necessary, and to understand how we can get started.



Stormwater discharges are generated by runoff from land and impervious areas, such as paved streets, parking lots, and building rooftops during rainfall and snow events that often contain pollutants in quantities that could negatively affect water quality.

Whether you live, work, or travel through the Bear Creek watershed, you contribute to the health of the watershed. The Study identifies both best practices and strategies that you can do to preserve and restore the natural resources in your community.

**Q: How was the public involved in developing this Study?**

We held public meetings (3) to announce the Study, provide updates on the current and future conditions, and get feedback on potential strategies to improve the watershed. Several more technical workshops (4) were held for interested parties to discuss the conditions of the watershed and types of strategies. The project website has been updated with reports and summaries of key meetings.

Q: How did you approach deciding what to do first?

We incorporated a strong recommendation from community members to focus on a few small areas where there was (1) a convergence of problems, and (2) the areas were small enough to improve our ability to see improvements in a shorter timeframe (1-10 years). While we identified some watershed-wide recommendations that could be implemented when opportunities arise (such as tree plantings and raingardens), the emphasis is on the near-term strategies.

**Q: How did you consider climate change in this study?**

A complementary study is being conducted by King County, at the same time evaluating the impacts of projected future rainfall that may lead to updates in the King County stormwater facility design standards. As plan strategies are being implemented, future rainfall projections will be included when designing specific recommended strategies in the watershed.

Q: How will this Study be used?

This Study will be used to assist King County, its partners, and other interested parties to improve water quality and habitat in Bear Creek. The detailed analyses contained in the study will also assist King County and others in continuing to improve the health of other watersheds.

Q: What is the cost of a raingarden?

The average cost of installing a raingarden is about \$5,000. Though it can vary depending on conditions of each site. We are developing a program to support installation of raingardens and hope to cover the construction costs for Bear Creek private property owners who would like a raingarden. Maintenance of the raingarden would be the responsibility of the property owner for those who choose to have a raingarden on their property. Cost of maintenance over the life of the raingarden would be approximately \$300-400.

Q: What are the next steps?

Community members and interested parties are encouraged to provide feedback on the draft Study. The complete draft Study and appendices are available on the project website at www.kingcounty.gov/BearCreekStudy. Comments are due by March 21, 2018.

Please provide your written comments to:

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or through our online forum on our project website at:
www.kingcounty.gov/BearCreekStudy

The Final Study will be submitted to Department of Ecology on April 4, 2018.

Alternative formats available. Please call 206-477-4658 or TTY:711.

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